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PAGE 01 CARACA 12469 01 OF 02 281536Z
ACTION ARA-01

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|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-17 | AID-01 | A-01 | CA-02 | CCO-00 | CIAE-00 |
| | CTME-00 | C-01 | DODE-00 | DS-00 | EB-01 | EUR-01 | OIGO-01 |
| | FBO-01 | HA-09 | H-01 | IMMC-01 | INRE-00 | INR-01 | IO-19 |
| | LAB-04 | L-03 | ADS-00 | M-01 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OCS-06 |
| | OIC-02 | OMB-01 | OPR-01 | PA-01 | PM-02 | PRS-01 | P-01 |
| | SCT-03 | SIL-00 | SNP-00 | SP-00 | SR-00 | SSC-01 | SS-00 |
| | STR-17 | TRSE-00 | T-01 | USIE-00 | USSS-00 | ASDS-01 | RPE-00 |

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O 281539Z NOV 92 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5767
AMEMBASSY LIMA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO ARA COLLECTIVE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 12469

E.O.12356: DECL: N/A
TAGS: MARR, PGOV, ASEC, PHUM, CASC, PREL, VE
SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 12/ ATTEMPTED COUP IN CARACAS,
SATURDAY, 28 NOV. AS OF 10:00

REF: CARACAS 12464 (AND PREVIOUS)
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PAGE 02 CARACA 12469 01 OF 02 281536Z

1. GENERAL SITUATION IN CARACAS: RADIO REPORTS FROM VARIOUS MOBILE UNITS TRAVELLING THROUGH THE CITY DURING THE FIRST HOURS OF THE MORNING (I.E., SINCE CURFEW ENDED AT 6:00 A.M.) INDICATE THAT THE SITUATION IS RELATIVELY CALM AND QUIET, BUT WITH SOME PROBLEM AREAS. TRAFFIC IS LIGHTER THAN USUAL FOR A SATURDAY, BUT THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES ON THE STREETS IS ALREADY HIGHER THAN YESTERDAY (AND SEEMS TO BE PICKING UP). PRIVATE CARS, TAXIS, MINI-BUSES, AND DELIVERY TRUCKS ARE ALREADY IN EVIDENCE, AND SHOPS AND BUSINESSES ARE OPENING. THE CITY SUBWAY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
DATE/CASE ID: 12 APR 2007 200503206

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SYSTEM IS RUNNING, ALBEIT WITHOUT ALL STATIONS OPERATING INITIALLY.

2. THE ENTRANCE TO THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY (UCV) IS REPORTEDLY SEALED OFF BY POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARDS. ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM A DISIP OFFICER, NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS ARE IN THE MIDST OF CONDUCTING A SEARCH OF THE UCV CAMPUS (WHICH IS NORMALLY OFF LIMITS TO SECURITY FORCES) TO ROUND UP CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS OF YESTERDAY'S COUP ATTEMPT, INCLUDING BANDERA ROJA GUERRILLAS, AND TO SEARCH FOR ARMS.

3. ACCORDING TO DISIP, THERE WERE SOME INCIDENTS OF DISORDER IN SLUM AREAS OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN CARACAS DURING THE NIGHT, DESPITE THE CURFEW. AGAIN ACCORDING TO DISIP CONTACT, NATIONAL GUARD AND ARMY ELEMENTS CONTROLLED THE DISORDER AND SEIZED SIGNIFICANT QUANTITY OF ARMS. EMBASSY OFFICERS HEARD NO GUNFIRE IN THE AREAS OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN CARACAS WHERE THEY LIVE; THE TERRAIN OF THE CITY (A GROUP OF NARROW VALLEYS) MEANS THAT SIGNIFICANT
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PAGE 03 CARACA 12469 01 OF 02 281536Z
FIGHTING IS USUALLY AUDIBLE OVER A WIDE AREA. RADIO NEWS REPORTS THIS MORNING ALSO CONFIRM THAT SOME LOCAL PROBLEMS OCCURRED. THUS FAR, IT APPEARS THAT THEY WERE RELATIVELY MINOR.

4. WITH DAYLIGHT, THE CARACAS RUMOR MILL IS BACK IN HIGH GEAR. SOME OF RUMORS APPEAR TO HAVE SOME BASIS IN FACT. FOR EXAMPLE, JUST BEFORE 10 A.M. RADIO NEWS REPORTED THAT A GOV ANTI-BOMB TEAM WAS WORKING IN THE "CARMELITAS" AREA OF CENTRAL CARACAS, TRYING TO DISARM AN UNEXPLODED ROCKET THAT FELL YESTERDAY. GUNFIRE BROKE OUT IN THE AREA. THE SITUATION WAS CONFUSED FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, BUT HAS NOW RETURNED TO RELATIVE NORMAL.

5. SEPARATELY, RADIO CARRIED A REPORT THAT A GROUP OF CARACAS POLICE (PERHAPS AS MANY AS 23) HAVE DESERTED. RADIO NEWS LINKS THIS TO A REPORT, ALSO UNCONFIRMED, THAT AN UNAUTHORIZED HELICOPTER HAS BEEN SEEN IN THE VICINITY OF MIRAFLORES PALACE.

6. THE "RETEN DE CATIA" PRISON IN CARACAS WAS THE SCENE OF A SERIOUS RIOT AND ATTEMPTED BREAKOUT BY COMMON PRISONERS YESTERDAY, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION CREATED BY THE COUP ATTEMPT. A CONSIDERABLE (BUT AS YET

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UNCONFIRMED) NUMBER OF PRISONERS WERE KILLED WHEN THE GOV
RECAPTURED THE CELL BLOCKS. THIS MORNING, RENEWED GUNFIRE
IS REPORTEDLY COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE SAME PRISON.

7. AIRPORT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT IS
OPERATING NORMALLY TODAY. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO OUR
INFORMATION, FLIGHTS WILL NOT BE BE PERMITTED TO ARRIVE
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PAGE 04 CARACA 12469 01 OF 02 281536Z
AFTER 7:00 P.M. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD, BUT IT IS NOT YET
OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED, THAT THE CURFEW, WHICH WAS 6 TO 6
LAST NIGHT, WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL 10 P.M. TONIGHT. THE
RESTRICTION ON AIRPORT ARRIVALS IS TO PERMIT PASSENGERS TO
REACH THEIR HOMES OR HOTELS BEFORE 10 P.M.

8. REBEL LEADERS FLEE: RADIO AND TV REPORTS CLAIM THAT A
C-130 HERCULES DEPARTED FROM MARACAY ON FRIDAY (NOV. 27)
CARRYING REBEL MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES AND
LANDED IN THE CITY OF IQUITOS, IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON.
ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, AMONG THE REBELS WHO HAVE GONE
TO PERU WAS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE COUP, AIR FORCE
GENERAL FRANCISCO VISCONTI OSORIO. ONE REPORT SAID THAT
THE PLANE CONTAINED A TOTAL OF 93 PERSONS, INCLUDING 47
AIR FORCE OFFICERS. A FURTHER RADIO REPORT INDICATED THAT
THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU WAS STUDYING WHETHER TO GRANT
POLITICAL ASYLUM TO THE REBELS. A TELEVISION REPORT

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PAGE 01 CARACA 12469 02 OF 02 281537Z
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INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AID-01 A-01 CA-02 CCO-00 CIAE-00

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E.O.12356: DECL: N/A
TAGS: MARR, PGOV, ASEC, PHUM, CASC, PREL, VE
SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 12/ ATTEMPTED COUP IN CARACAS,

CLAIMS THAT THE VENEZUELAN HAVE BEEN CHECKED INTO TOURIST
HOTELS, WHILE THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT MAKES UP ITS MIND.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 12469 02 OF 02 281537Z
(SEPTTEL TO LIMA, NOTAL)

9. TELEPHONE BOMB THREAT. ON THE EVENING OF NOV. 27 AT
20:50 A TELEPHONE BOMB THREAT WAS RECEIVED BY THE MSG AT
THE EMBASSY. THE CALLER WAS A MALE, AND SPOKE IN ENGLISH
WITH A DISTINCT SPANISH ACCENT. MSG NOTIFIED A/DCM AND A
SEARCH OF THE EMBASSY WAS CONDUCTED. NO EVIDENCE OF ANY
BOMB WAS FOUND.

10. EMBASSY EAC AND ADDITIONAL STAFF ARE AT THE EMBASSY.
WE ARE PREPARING, INTER ALIA, UPDATED GUIDANCE TO THE
AMERICAN COMMUNITY ABOUT AIRPORT STATUS, SECURITY, CURFEW,
ETC., TO BE ISSUED AS SOON AS WE HAVE THE FACTS IN HAND.

11. ACCORDING TO TODAY'S PRESS, PLANNING MINISTER
HAUSMANN AND ICE PRESIDENT HAVE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN
OVER THE IMPACT OF THE LATEST COUP ATTEMPT ON INVESTOR

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CONFIDENCE. HAUSMANN ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO MAKE A JUDGMENT ON THIS AND THAT THE FIRST INDICATIONS WILL COME WHEN THE FINANCIAL MARKETS OPEN MONDAY. A REPEAT OF THE CAPITAL FLIGHT AND PANIC BUYING IN THE STORES THAT FOLLOWED THE FEBRUARY 4 ATTEMPT COULD AGAIN PUT STRONG PRESSURE ON PRICES OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. WE WILL CLOSELY MONITOR THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKETS WHEN THEY OPEN NEXT WEEK.

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